

## Fergana Valley During the Time of Bukhara Khan Imam Quli Khan Political Processes

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**Abstract:** This article discusses the political life in the Ferghana Valley during the reign of the strongest representative of the Ashtarkhanids, Imam Qulikhan, and the place of the region in relations with neighboring settlers.

**Keywords:** Khanate of Bukhara, Ashtarkhanids, Ferghana Valley, Andijan, Akhsi, Kazakhs.

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**INTRODUCTION.** Fergana Valley is of special importance in our republic in terms of its location. This geographical factor influenced the fact that the ethnic composition, economic and cultural image of the region is slightly different from other regions. The fact that the valley is the eastern border, has lived side by side with nomads since ancient times, and is far from the historical centers of Samarkand and Bukhara has given rise to its unique state management. Initially, the above reasons had a great impact on the development of the Dovan state and later the Kokan Khanate. Considerable scientific research on the history of the Fergana Valley is being conducted and presented to the public. In particular, as a result of the effective researches of B.Usmonov, S.Yuldashev, A.Nishonov on the history of the Middle Ages, many puzzling issues on the social, political history and cultural life of the valley are being solved [17, 18, 19]. As a gradual continuation of the above studies, it is becoming urgent to carry out research on the history of the Ashtarkhanid era of the valley.

**THE MAIN PART.** The Ashtarkhanid dynasty ruled the Khanate of Bukhara in the 18th and 18th centuries. The Zarafshan oasis, Northern Afghanistan, Hisar, and Tashkent regions were under the control of the dynasty. Today, the researchers conducting scientific research on this period call the dynasty Jany, To'kai Timurids. The period of the XVII–XVIII centuries, which is called a unique crisis period in the history of Central Asia, and the study of the economic and political effects of this crisis in the regions, is important today. In particular, in order to find an answer to the question that the Kokan khanate, formed in the valley, arose as a result of regular processes, it is necessary to deeply analyze the management of the Ashtarkhanid dynasty of the Bukhara khanate.

At the beginning of the 17th century, the rivalry between the Ashtarkhanids and the Kazakh khans for the northeastern territories of Movarounnahr intensified. In the initial conflicts, the Kazakhs prevailed and established their rule in the Syrdarya region and Tashkent. Fergana Valley was not left out of these struggles. In some scientific literature, it is noted that the valley came under the control of Kazakhs. We would like to describe how the struggle for the Fergana Valley took place during this period by analyzing the sources and scientific literature that provide information about that period.

The struggles during the time of the first Ashtarkhani Khan Baqimuhammad Khan (1601–1605) are described in some detail in the work "Musaxhir al-bilad" by Muhammad ibn Arab Qataghan and the works of researcher Robert McChesney [10, 16].

The last period of Valimuhammad Khan's reign (1605–1611) was spent in the struggle against Imam Quli Khan and Nadr Muhammed. In this conflict, the brothers ask for help from the

Kazakh khans Eshim Khan and Abulai Sultan in Dasht. In 1611, Imamquli Khan defeated Valimuhammad Khan, who relied on the help of the Safavids, near Samarkand. Imamkuli Khan was forced to recognize the rule of the Kazakh sultan Eshim Khan, who helped him in this struggle, in the territories of Tashkent and Turkestan. Eshimkhan's son Jonibek gave Sogarj near Samarkand [4, 107]. Another Kazakh sultan, Abulai Sultan, was not given property. The Fergana Valley was not mentioned in the matter of property distribution. This shows that the central and eastern parts of the Ferghana Valley were not under the influence of the Kazakhs.

It is stated in the sources that the center of this region was the city of Andijan [8, 17]. Only the western parts of the Ferghana Valley, that is, the regions from Khojand to Margilan, were under the direct control of the Ashtarkhanids [14, 57].

When Imamquli Khan came to the throne, he focused his attention on the northeastern part of the country. During this period, the Kazakh Khanate became a powerful state under the leadership of Eshim Khan and was trying to strengthen itself in the Syrdarya Basin and Tashkent. In 1612–13, Imamkuli Khan defeated the Kazakhs in the Talas Valley and managed to somewhat reduce their influence in these areas. You can get detailed information about this from the work "History of Muqimkhan". "Kazakh and Kalmyk tribes," writes the historian, "have learned to disobey from time immemorial, and (even now) in droves, they fled to the remote areas of the country (Movarounnahr). An order came from the stubborn khans that the victorious troops of the ruler of the earth (Imam Quli Khan) should gather around the supreme throne. In the year 1021 (1612–1613), (His Highness) raised the mighty royal flag high and started marching. From the borders of Turkestan to the last regions of Ashpara and Karatov, he killed, tied up and wounded the evil Kazakhs, Karakalpaks and Kalmaks, and gave a good effect" [9, 86–87]. After this victory, Imamqulikhan added Tashkent to the Ashtarkhanid state. The main goal of Imamqulikhan's campaign in 1612–1613 was to recapture Tashkent and push the settlers into the interior of Dashti Kipchak as much as possible. Although these sources do not mention the valley, this victory of Imam Quli Khan strengthened his influence in the valley. Zaki Walidy noted that the first document issued in the name of Imam Qulikhan dates back to 1614 among the labels of the Ashtarkhanids in the Ferghana Valley [5, 77].

Kazakh khan Tursun Khan, who soon occupied Tashkent, recognized the power of Bukhara Khan and used it for his own benefit.

As a result of the closeness of Imamkuli Khan and Tursun Khan, Eshim Khan had to go to East Turkestan for some time. Tursun Khan's minting of coins in his own name, and his desire to expand his power beyond Tashkent, led to the deterioration of the relations between Imam Quli Khan and Tursun Khan. In 1621, the Kazakh Khan won the big battle between the Ashtarkhanids and Tursun Khan on the Shahruxhiya River [15, 1185].

In 1623, near the Shahruxhiya fortress, Tursun Khan won the next big battle. Abulai Sultan, one of the Kazakh sultans who participated in this battle, was on the side of the Ashtarkhanids. But as soon as the battle begins, Abulai Sultan leaves the Ashtarkhanids. This caused the defeat of Imam Quli Khan's army. Klashtorniy and T.Sultanov Abulai Sultan was described as the deputy of Imamqulikhan in Andijan [7, 415]. It is understood that the Shahruxhiya fortress, mentioned as the site of two battles, was the border between Bukhara and the Kazakh Khanate at this time.

After this incident, Tursun Khan focused his attention on Ferghana. It can be seen that Tursun Khan seriously prepared for this campaign, because he made an alliance with his main enemy, Eshim Khan. The united Kazakh army invaded the valley in 1624. At that time, Khanzoda, who was the governor of Andijan and Akhsi, could not resist the united Kazakh army. "Bahr ul-asrar" contains valuable information about this. "At the same time, petitions and messages were received from the residents of Andijan in the presence of the refuge of peace. [They] complained about the lawlessness and injustice of the ruler of that region and asked him to turn the reins of sincerity to the servants of victory. [12, 136]. From this information, it appears that the local forces in the valley, and not Khanza, sought help. Historian T. Sultonov noted that Khanzoda asked for help [11, 223].

If we analyze the current political situation at that time, the real purpose of this support was to return Ferghana to the Bukhara Khanate. It is natural that the fight against the nomadic Kazakhs and Kalmyks in the north of the country, strengthened by the opportunities in the Ferghana Valley, will be effective. Realizing this, Khan of Bukhara appoints two of his strongest generals, Yalangtoshbi and Shukurbi, as commanders of the army. When they arrived in the valley, the Kazakh army was besieging Akhsi. Ashtarkhanis are defeated in the clash of the armies of the two sides near Akhsi. Only Yalangtoshbi's military skills saved the Bukhara troops from being completely crushed [3, 123].

Russian scientist A.K.Alekseev believes that Tursunkhan and Eshimkhan ruled a part of the valley together after the battle of Akhsi, while according to T.Sultonov, Kazakh sultans looted a number of fortresses here and returned to Tashkent and Turkestan [11, 224]. Another researcher, O. Burton, noted that the goal of Kazakh khans was not fulfilled in these battles in the valley and they returned to Tashkent [2, 169]. In our opinion, the two Kazakh sultans did not occupy the valley, but their attack was just one of the regular attacks of nomads on settled areas. Also, the fact that the names of Tursun Khan and Eshim Khan are not mentioned together with Andijan or Akhsi in the further development of events, and that the name of Abulai Sultan is mentioned again as the governor of Andijan during their struggles in 1627–28 proves that the information given by T. Sultanov is correct.

In 1624, Khanzoda's rule ended in Andijan, and the Kazakhs plundered these lands and returned. As a result of this, Abulai sultan had favorable conditions for reoccupying these lands. Before that, the Kazakh sultan was active in Eastern Turkestan [13, 269]. The successive defeats of the Ashtarkhanids stopped Imam Qulikhan from hindering the actions of Sultan Abulai. On the other hand, the previous enmity between them was warmed by the marriage of the Khan of Bukhara, Abulai, to the sultan's daughter. Abulai Sultan continued to rule Andijan and Akhsi on behalf of the Ashtarkhanids. The alliance between the Khan of Bukhara and the Kazakh sultan certainly did not suit the interests of other Kazakh khans in Tashkent and Turkestan.

Among the Kazakh sultans, Tursun Khan is the most dangerous for the Bukhara Khan. Tursun Khan is bordered by political forces hostile to him on three sides. Abulai Sultan is considered the most warlike among the Kazakh sultans. There is not much information about his reign in Andijan and Akhsi. Although he officially ruled the region as Ashtarkhanid's deputy in Andijan and Akhsi, he conducted independent politics in many cases. His political activity began to increase in 1626–27. The reason is that the dispute between Tursun Khan and Eshim Khan eventually led to war between them. The battle between two Kazakh sultans near Sairam ended with the victory of Eshim Khan [7, 302].

The defeated Tursunkhan was returning to Tashkent, where he had another bad luck. When Tursun Khan went to Sayram against Eshim Khan, Khojand governor Davuchabiy called Imamqulikhan and his governor in Oratepa Suyunchbiy to inform them that there was a favorable situation for an attack on Tashkent. In order to take advantage of the current situation, the Ashtarkhans decided to march towards Tashkent. Davuchabi and Suyunchbi were joined by the governor of Andijan, Abulay Sultan, and together they attacked Piskent. At this time, Piskent Eshqora belonged to the sultan, and after a fierce battle, this territory was captured. The allies attacked Shahrukhiya and got the governor of that place, Murad Sultan, to surrender without a fight and declared that he was subject to Bukhara [6, 362]. Both viceroys of the Fergana valley and the governor of Oratepa, Suyunchbiy, struck Tursun Khan and ultimately caused the downfall of the Kazakh khan. But it is interesting that the allies did not attack Tashkent directly, but contented themselves with occupying important fortresses and cities around it.

After the viceroys of Andijan, Khojand and Oratepa, Jizzakh Governor Bek Ogle and Kazakh Khan Eshim Khan also decided to attack Tursun Khan. Knowing that the situation was out of control, Tursun Khan's relatives killed him and sent his head to Eshim Khan. He sent Bek through his son to Imam Qulikhan and received an order from the Khan of Bukhara to rule Tashkent and Turkestan [6, 363]. However, there is no information about how respect was given

to the deputies of Fergana, who played a major role in the complete defeat of Tursun Khan. Judging by the development of subsequent events, Abulai sultan did not welcome the fact that Eshim Khan became the great khan of the Kazakh clan. Because his intention was actually to become a big khan or at least to get control of Tashkent. Imamkuli Khan did not want Abulai Sultan's influence to grow at the expense of Tashkent. Eshim Khan, whose main destination was Turkestan and focused on the fight against the Kalmyks, and therefore sought good relations with Bukhara, was favorable to Imam Quli Khan. Maybe these reasons later again put the relations between Imam Quli Khan and Abulai Sultan in jeopardy.

Eshim Khan's death in 1628 caused another political instability. In order to take advantage of the favorable situation, Sultan Abulai immediately occupied Tashkent and delivered a sermon in his name. This meant disobeying Imam Qulikhan and coming into conflict with him. Khan of Bukhara immediately raised an army against him. Imamkuli Khan himself settled in Jizzakh [1, 346]. Bukhara's troops were greatly strengthened by the auxiliary troops from Balkh. The armies of the two sides clash at Qaymas and both sides suffer heavy losses. According to "Matlab ut-Talibin", the sheikhs of Dzhoibor saddled 9 horses and sent them for the Khan of Bukhara under the leadership of Mirzo Yolboldi Mirokhur. It is stated that the place where he arrived in Tashkent fifteen days later was occupied by the Ashtarkhanids of Tashkent [1, 346–347]. So, after the clash in Kaymas, Sultan Abulay held Tashkent for more than ten days. In the end, Abulai Sultan retreated to Mongolia.

Thus, Abulai Sultan's rule in Andijan and Akhsi ended in 1628–29. The victorious Khan of Bukhara first captured Tashkent, and then Andijan and Akhsi. So, it can be said that the complete rule of the Ashtarkhanids in the Ferghana Valley was established in 1628. Abdullah Sultan, the son of Bakimukhammadkhan, was appointed as the viceroy of Tashkent. Andijan was given to Pirmuhammad, the son of Imam Quli Khan. This was the greatest success of Imam Quli Khan over the Kazakhs. The northeastern borders of the Bukhara Khanate almost returned to the situation in 1598.

But Pirmuhammad's vicereignty in Andijan did not last long. In 1630–1631, Abulai Sultan captured Andijan and killed Pirmuhammad Sultan [3, 124]. Imam Quli Khan immediately sent an army under the leadership of one of his skilled generals, Shukurbi, against Sultan Abulai. Abulai Sultan was forced to leave Andijan due to his weakness in front of the Ashtarkhani army. He most likely went back to Mongolia. Information about the later life of Abulai Sultan is not unanimous. According to T.Sultanov, A.Alekseev, he was killed by a person named Murad Yasovul [11, 87; 3, 125]. "Matlab ut-talibin" gives slightly different information. According to him, Abulai, who was appointed governor of Andijan and Akhsi by Imam Quli Khan, married Bukhara Khan, the daughter of the sultan, and they had a 6–7 year old child. Through his emirs, Abulai invites the sultan to his presence, the Kazakh sultan visits his dargah because he is related to the Ashtarkhani ruler. At that moment, Imam Quli Khan's child died of smallpox. During the campaign, a group of emirs kill Abulai Sultan in a tavern. Knowing about this, Imam Quli Khan accuses Nazarbi Nayman of conspiracy.

Nazarbi Naiman fled to Joybor and sought refuge from Tajiddin Hasankhoja. Shukurbi Ataliq and Nadir Devan Begs, the closest officials of Bukhara Khan, beg the sheikh of Dzhoibor to ask Imam Kulikhan for the sin of Nazarbi Naiman. Tajiddin Hasankhoja hosted Imamkulikhan, asked Nazarbi Nayman for his sins, and Nazarbi entered the meeting of Khan of Bukhara [1, 202–203]. This information given in Matlab ut talibin is a bit questionable. After the above events, Abulai Sultan's visit to Imam Quli Khan is uncertain. That's why T. Sultanov, referring to "Bahr ul-asrar" and stating that Abulai Sultan was killed by Murad Yasavul, is close to the truth.

Thus, after a long struggle, Ashtarkhanid rule was fully established in the Ferghana Valley during the reign of Imam Quli Khan. In Imamqulikhan's label, it is mentioned that the territories from the Ferghana Valley to Uzgan were given to the descendants of Sayyid Burkhaniddin Qilich [3, 135]. This shows that the Khan of Bukhara relied on the local priests in the administration of the valley.

**CONCLUSIONS.** The conclusion from the above information is that the struggle of the Ashtarkhanids with the Kazakhs continued even during the reign of Imam Qulikhan. At the end of these battles, the Ashtarkhanids could not completely hold Tashkent in their hands. But the Fergana Valley was first officially, and later practically completely incorporated into the Ashtarkhanid state. The situation in the Ferghana Valley remained turbulent compared to other regions until the last years of Imam Kuli Khan's rule. It is necessary to carry out additional research on the death of Akhmad, who sought refuge with Iomqulikhan from the Khanate of Yorkand, in the siege of Andijan, the arrival and killing of the local priest Fazilbi, and the rebellions raised in Andijan with the help of settlers. Only then will we have a complete conclusion about the political situation in the Fergana Valley during the time of Imam Quli Khan.

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